

THE LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a mineral composition that has a low pH comprising

(a) providing a clay soil having

- (i) a selected minimal concentration of cadmium, lead, arsenic, and mercury,
- (ii) at least eight macro mineral elements,
- (iii) at least sixty micro mineral elements,
- (iv) at least ten rare earth elements,
- (v) at least four percent by weight calcium,
- (vi) at least four percent by weight silica; and,

(b) processing ~~said~~ the clay soil by

- (i) admixing ~~said~~ the soil with water and at least one acid to produce a slurry,
- (ii) allowing particles to settle from ~~said~~ the slurry to produce an acidic liquid ~~containing comprising~~ at least eight macro mineral elements and at least sixty micro mineral elements,
- (iii) separating the acidic liquid comprising at least eight macro mineral elements and at least sixty micro mineral elements from the settled particles, and
- (iv) concentrating ~~said~~ the separated acidic liquid to increase the concentration of mineral elements in ~~said~~ the acidic liquid to greater than 4% by weight.

2. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising a composition including

- (a) at least eight macro mineral elements;
- (b) a least sixty micro mineral elements; and,
- (c) at least ten rare earth elements;

said article of manufacture having a pH of less than four.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising drying the concentrated acidic liquid to form a powder mineral element composition.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein drying comprises spray drying the concentrated liquid.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pH of the mineral composition is less than 4.5.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the macro mineral elements are calcium, chlorine, magnesium, manganese, phosphorous, potassium, silicon or sodium.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the micro mineral elements are aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, bismuth, boron, bromine, cadmium, cerium, cesium, chromium, cobalt, copper, dysprosium, erbium, europium, fluorine, gadolinium, gold, hafnium, holmium, iodine, indium, iridium, iron, lanthanum, lead, lithium, lutetium, mercury, molybdenum, neodymium, nickel, niobium, palladium, platinum, praseodymium, rhenium, rhodium, rubidium, ruthenium, samarium, scandium, selenium, silver, strontium, sulfur, tantalum, terbium, tellurium, thallium, thorium, thulium, tin, titanium, tungsten, vanadium, ytterbium, yttrium, zinc or zirconium.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the rare earth elements are metallic elements with atomic numbers ranging from 58 to 71.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the water is purified by reverse osmosis.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acid is an edible acid.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the edible acid is citric acid.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein the edible acid is phosphoric acid.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the liquid is concentrated by reverse osmosis.